

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT
INITIAL AND FINAL POLREP**

DATE: February 12, 2004

SUBJECT: Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Discharge
Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

FROM: Robert N. Rosen, OSC
Region 4

TO: Region 4, RRC
John McCulloch, Mecklenburg County Water Quality
Kevin Misenheimer, OSC
NPFC Case Officer
Project File

I. BACKGROUND

FPN: E04410
SITE ID: Z4G7
PRFA: NO
PROJECT CEILING: \$5,000
LEAD AGENCY: EPA, Region 4, ERRB
61 Forsyth St. Atlanta, Ga 30303
NPL: N
FUNDING: OPA
LEAD OSC: Robert N. Rosen
PARTY CONDUCTING ACTION: EPA Region 4 providing RP oversight

II. SITUATION

Date of Notification: February 10, 2004
Date Action Started: February 11, 2004
Completion Date: February 15, 2004 (estimated)
Pollutant: hydraulic oil
Quantity Discharged: unknown, estimated 10-20 gals
Substantial Threat: no
Surface Water: Irwin Creek to Big Sugar Creek to Catawba River system
Source Identification: hydraulic line failure
Potential Responsible Party: Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company

III. ACTIONS

On February 10, 2004, Mecklenburg County Water Quality reported a discharge of what appeared to be a light petroleum product at the point where a city storm drain discharges into Irwin Creek, at the end of Summit Street in Charlotte, North Carolina. Fire department personnel installed sorbent booms across the creek while Water Quality (MCWQ) personnel inspected city storm drains and receiving boxes in an effort to track the discharge to its source. They were able to narrow down the potential source to the Charlotte Pipe Company which is located on the other side of the interstate on South Clarkson Street. By the morning of February 11, the PRP hired a local spill contractor and they were using sorbent pads and booms to supplement those applied by the fire department. The response contractor was also using a vacuum truck to remove small accumulations of oil from the storm drain system at the foundry.

When EPA responders arrived on February 11, they accompanied MCWQ to the foundry and further investigated potential spill sources with company representatives. Eventually, they located a small, pad-mounted hydraulic unit which had experienced a hose failure. The resulting oil discharge ran into a storm drain receiver which had been obscured by other equipment and materials. Given the size of the unit and its relatively low capacity, it appears that the discharge was minimal (<100 gallons). The release was observed to be secured. EPA issued a Notice of Federal Interest and a CWA 311(c) order to the respondent, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry.

IV. FUTURE ACTIONS

The RP is conducting a credible response effort. The discharge was most likely a relatively small quantity of oil which had been released over some unknown period of time. It obviously stained storm drain lines and collected in drain boxes but never appears to have reached navigable waters in a quantity large enough to effectively boom and recover. The cleanup contractor will flush drain lines and vacuum out oil as it accumulates. They will also continue to monitor the discharge point at Irwin Creek and remove as much oil as possible as it reaches the creek. Cleanup actions should be completed by the February 15, 2004.

V. ESTIMATED COSTS

The OSC initially requested \$5,000 from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund through an FPN. These funds will cover EPA travel and salary costs incurred during oversight of the RP's efforts. Overall costs will not be likely to exceed \$1,000.

VI. RESPONSIBLE PARTY INFORMATION

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